

Thesis Protocols of the Interdisciplinary Humanities MA in Interpretation and Values

While full-time students pursuing the course-only option normally complete the programme in 12 months, full-time students considering the thesis option should be prepared to extend their time to 15 to 18 months (one to two terms, with additional tuition required), with an expectation to graduate in the second spring. The extension may not be necessary, but some students have found it so. It helps greatly if students have come into the programme with a topic in mind into which they have already put some thought and around which they have been reading.

1. Re. Student eligibility for thesis (i.e., a sustained piece of scholarly work based on independent research):

- a) A student who wishes to be considered for the thesis stream must present as part of the application package a substantial idea for a possible **Thesis Topic** (100-150 words), as the basis for an interdisciplinary research project.
- c) If the student is accepted for admission, the Director will send the proposed **Thesis Topic** to the Chair of the Thesis Protocols Committee, which will first meet in the spring to discuss the topics they have received, determine the viability of each thesis topic, and, where appropriate, consider possible supervisors. At the same time, students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the research interests of possible supervisors.

2. Thesis Proposal Guidelines:

- a) Once a supervisor and committee have been determined, the student then has to submit a full **Thesis Proposal**. In consultation with the supervisor and other members of the committee, the student must produce a Proposal which includes a development of the Thesis Topic and the underlying research questions, along with a proposed timeline (2-3 pages); and a preliminary bibliography (1-2 pages).
- b) To assist students in developing their **Thesis Proposals**, the Thesis Protocols Committee will organize a Thesis Proposal Writing Workshop to be held in September.
- c) The **Thesis Proposal**, with a list of suggested readers, will be submitted to the Thesis Protocols Committee in the second week in October, at which point the TPC will consult with the supervisor; if revisions are necessary, the student will submit a revised proposal after the October study break.
- d) The proposal will be submitted by the TPC for consideration at the November Council meeting.
- e) Should a student's proposal not be approved to go forward at this stage, the student will continue in the course stream.
- f) The thesis is expected to be approximately 60-80 pages (approximately 20,000 words).

3. Part-time Students:

Part-time students are expected to deposit their thesis within twelve months of the date on which their thesis proposal is accepted.

4. Suggestions for Thesis Supervision:

- a) Once the **Thesis Proposal** has been accepted, the supervisor is expected to obtain the **Procedures for Thesis Defence** from the School of Graduate Studies and Research.
- b) Each Thesis committee is expected to meet early in the process to agree on the role of the readers in the evolution of the thesis.

5. Thesis Protocols Committee:

- a) The Thesis Protocols Committee should aim to be as interdisciplinary as possible and should consist of a minimum of three, with no more than one member from each discipline.
- b) Members will be appointed for staggered two-year terms.

Sept, 2005